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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claim 1-36 and 38-39 have been amended herein. The limitations of claim 37 have been incorporated into independent claim 34 - claim 37 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A system ~~for that~~ automates detection and configuration of network parameters, comprising:

a first computer system ~~for that~~ communicating to with a network; and

at least a second computer system ~~for that~~ providing network information; wherein the first computer system queries the network and receives the network information from the at least a second computer system before a network identification has been established for the first computer system; and the first computer configures a network interface based on modifications to at least one stored configuration associated with the received network information.

2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising a storage for storing the at least one configuration utilized to configure the associated with a network interface; ~~the first computer system configures the network interface based upon the network information received from the at least a second computer system.~~

3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, ~~wherein~~ the first computer system configures the network interface by determining a network identification associated with the network information and matching the at least one configuration with the network identification.

4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, ~~wherein~~ the at least one configuration is determined from previous network configurations.

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5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, ~~wherein~~ the at least one configuration is determined from previous static configurations.
6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, ~~wherein~~ the at least one configuration is determined from previous dynamic configurations.
7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the query is a multicast.
8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 7, ~~wherein~~ the multicast is addressed to a multicast Internet Protocol (IP) address.
9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8, ~~wherein~~ the source IP address is 0.0.0.0.
10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 7, ~~wherein~~ the at least a second computer system responds to the multicast address via a Network Configuration Protocol (NCP) header.
11. (Currently amended) The system of claim 10, ~~wherein~~ the NCP header further comprises a subnet address and subnet mask.
12. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the query is an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) broadcast.
13. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, ~~wherein~~ the ARP broadcast is associated with a router defined in the at least one configuration.

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14. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the first computer system interfaces to the network *via* at least one Network Interface Card (NIC).

15. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the first computer system further comprises a timer for determining a time to receive the network information.

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the at least a second computer system further comprises a timer for mitigating network traffic.

17. (Currently amended) A method ~~for that~~ automates detection and configuration of network parameters, comprising the steps of:

querying a network, the network comprising a plurality of network systems wherein respective network systems include a delay timer with a delay time based on a value of an associated address;

receiving a response from the network; and

configuring a network interface before a network identification has been established based upon the response from the network.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

determining a network identification associated with the response; and

matching at least one configuration associated with the network identification.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, ~~wherein~~ the query is at least one of a multicast and a broadcast.

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20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, ~~wherein~~ the query is an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) broadcast.
21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, ~~wherein~~ the response is at least one of a multicast and a broadcast.
22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of starting a local timer to determine if a response has been received.
- A* 23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of starting at least one network system delay timer in order to mitigate network traffic.
24. (Currently amended) 1) A system ~~for~~ that automates detection and configuration of network parameters, comprising:
- means for querying a network;
  - means for receiving a response from the network; and
  - means for configuring a network interface before a network identification has been established based upon the response from the network.
25. (Currently amended) The system of claim 24, further comprising:
- means for determining a network identification associated with the response; and
  - means for matching at least one configuration associated with the network identification.

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26. (Currently amended) A system ~~for that~~ automates detection and configuration of network parameters, comprising:

a first computer system with having a network interface;

a storage ~~for that~~ storing at least one configuration associated with a network; and

at least a second computer system ~~for that~~ providing network information to the first computer system; and

a Multiple Internet Protocol Configurations (MIPC) service that matches the at least one configuration with a network identification, wherein the first computer system configures the network interface by determining a network identification associated with the network information, wherein the first computer configures the network interface based on the matched configuration, received from the at least a second computer system and matching the at least one configuration with the network identification.

27. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26, ~~further comprising a~~ the Multiple Internet Protocol Configurations (MIPC) service comprising a set of configurations based on at least on one of past network configurations and predetermined configurations, the set utilized to for matching the at least one configuration with the network identification.

28. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26, ~~wherein~~ the network interface is at least one Network Interface Card (NIC).

29. (Currently amended) The system of claim 28, ~~wherein~~ the NIC is mapped to the at least one configuration by the MIPC service.

30. (Currently amended) The system of claim 29, ~~wherein~~ the NIC is mapped *via* a binary table.

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31. (Currently amended) The system of claim 30, further comprising at least one configuration detector (CD) for providing an association between the NIC and the at least one configuration.

32. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, ~~wherein the configuration detector initiates a network operation is initiated by the configuration detector~~ by registering the network operation with the MIPC service.

33. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26, ~~wherein the at least one configuration further comprises at least one of an Internet Protocol (IP) address, a subnet mask, a gateway address, a DHCP server, and a name server.~~

34. (Currently amended) A system for that automates detection and configuration of network parameters, comprising:

a first computer system having a network interface;

a storage for that ~~storing~~ at least one configuration associated with a network; and

~~at least a second computer system for that~~ providing network information; and

a third computer system without a network identification;

wherein the first computer system queries the ~~at least a second computer system~~ via the network interface to receive the network information before a network identification has been established for the first computer system;

~~wherein the first computer system configures the network interface by~~ determining a network identification associated with the network information and matching the at least one configuration with the network identification; and

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the third computer system determines a network configuration via communications from at least one of the first computer system and the second computer system.

35. (Currently amended) The system of claim 34, ~~wherein~~ the query is a multicast.

36. (Currently amended) The system of claim 34, ~~wherein~~ the query is an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) broadcast.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) The system of claim 34, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a router that transmits network configuration information periodically.

39. (Currently amended) The system of claim 34, ~~wherein~~ the query requests and responses are multicast over different addresses.